585 bours. One must know that the Matyó stable, as they call
529] it the «sty», is the meeting place and living room of the men. There is even a fireplace in it. It is as it were a club house of primitive people. They collect there to talk, to smoke, to fry bacon. If the new wife is in love with her husband, she soon opens the door to him when he slinks home about midnight... But sometimes he may have to wait for a whole month. And they have to be extremely careful, lest the old people should notice something. This is taken very seriously, and next morning the young couple, and especially the new husband have something to listen
576] to... To give some sign of love before others is a grave disgrace. Sooner or later however some event will occur, and presumably the old people also know that a baby is not brought by the stork, nor does it grow on a rose-bush, as the ladies-in-waiting of the Whitsun queen say in their songs... But all this is in vain, laws are laws, and the Matyó laws are particularly strict. This strictness is the cause of all those possible «disgraces» which may befall the young couple, during the wedding celebrations, if they do not take utmost care.

Wedding customs

(A little history is mingled with this chapter)

585 The most frequent word used in connection with a
574 Hungarian wedding is the word «lakodalom» meaning banquet, that is feasting, carousing; the marriage is celebrated, the wedding takes place, but the «lakodalom» is eaten and enjoyed! The Hungarian saying: «a 'lakodalom' in the hills and in the valleys» means an entertainment which is gay, well fed and endless. Food, drink,

It gives you a wonderful feeling to know all this and 837

to see day after day, how the people's state provides for the workers, for their wives and children. Ferenc Gergely has two children, Marika who is six years old and was born under the People's Democracy and Joska, who is thirteen and is in the seventh grade at elementary school. Joska is a pioneer; he spent two weeks at one of the pioneer camps last summer and he is now serving a period of about four weeks at the Pioneer Train.

The Pioneer Railway is the gift of the Hungarian People's 837 529
Democracy to the children. It rolls over eight miles, between Cool Valley and Liberty Hill, the most beautiful part of the capital. Every employee of the small railway is a pioneer. All are children: the conductors, the telegraphers, the station masters, the switch men and, naturally, the passengers. Or, rather, only part of the passengers, because the adults are just as fond as the children of this

The Pioneer Railway is managed completely by children. It was given by the Hungarian People's Republic to the children of the country.

half service half game institution which teaches the children a sense of responsibility. The Pioneer Railway is one of the favorite amusements of the children and an interesting spot of the capital.

Joska is deeply attached to the Pioneer Railway; he has repeatedly stated that he will become a railway man. It must be said, however, that he has at least as many times asserted that he will be a turner. The boy is greatly attracted to machines: his dexterity is above average and his father knows that soon he will be an industrial apprentice.

Going for a morning stroll at a resort hotel on Mount Mecsek.

Around seven o'clock Jozsef Magyar leaves. At the National Theatre they are playing Shakespeare's Hamlet; he has bought himself a ticket and now he must hurry so as to be on time. The National Theater is one of the largest theaters in the capital. Performances of contemporary, as well as classic plays have evoked so much interest in the theater among the people that there is rarely a performance that is not sold out. The fact, too, that the tickets are very inexpensive also contributes to the popularity of the entertainment medium.

The Gergely family sits down to dinner. They too have plans for the evening: they and the children are going on a two-hour trip on the musical promenade-ship on the Danube . . .

After dinner they pick themselves up and walk out to

Scene from a performance of "Hamlet" at the National Theater in Budapest.